OF

THE

PATAGONIANS.

FORMED

from the relation of Father FALKENER a Jesuit who had resided among them thirty eight Years. And from the different Voyagers who had met with this tall race.

By Thomas Pennant.

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MDCCLXXXVIII.

THE

PATAGONIANS.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

IN the Year 1771 happening to fall into company in which the ſubject of the *Patagonians* was mentioned, ſeveral opinions aroſe, ſome ſavoring of ſcepticiſm: others gave full credit to the accounts lately publiſhed. By accident I heard of Father *Falkener*, who had been expelled the *Spaniſh* Dominions in *America* and ſent to *Europe* with the reſt of his Brethren. He was at that time at *Spetchley* near *Worceſter*. I immediately procured recommendation to the worthy owner *Robert Berkely* Eſq; from whom I met with every politeneſs. I then commenced with him a friendſhip which ever ſince has given me ſingular pleaſure. I found Father *Falkener* to be a man of about ſeventy Years of age, active in mind and body, *Bruſque* in his manners, having never ſhaken off thoſe he had acquired in his thirty eight Years reſidence among the Savages. He very freely communicated to me every thing he knew reſpecting thoſe People. He informed me alſo that he was born at *Mancheſter*; that about the Year 1731 he was a Surgeon in the *Aſſiento* Ship, and in that Year became at *Buenos Ayres* a convert to Popery; and in due time of the ſociety of *Jeſuits*, and was ſent on the miſſion of *Paraquay*. This little piece would never have ſeen the light but for the friendſhip of Mr. ALLAN; and let the few to whom this may give pleaſure, unite in thanks to that liberal Gentleman, with

his obliged and affect: humble Servant

THOMAS PENNANT.

Downing March 1ſt. 1788.

TO

THE HONORABLE

DAINES BARRINGTON.

DEAR SIR,

I NOW execute the promiſe I made in Town ſome time ago, of communicating to you the reſult of my viſit to Mr. *Falkener* an antient Jeſuit who had paſſed thirty eight Years of his life in the Southern part of South *America* between the River *la Plata* and the ſtreights of *Magellan*. Let me endeavour to prejudice you in favor of my new Friend, by aſſuring you, that by his long intercourſe with the Inhabitants of *Patagonia*, he ſeems to have loſt all *European* guile, and to have acquired all the ſimplicity and honeſt impetuoſity of the people he has been ſo long converſant with. I venture to give you only as much of his narrative as he could vouch for the authenticity of; which conſiſts of ſuch as he was eye witneſs to, and ſuch as will (I believe) eſtabliſh paſt contradiction the veracity of our late Circumnavigators and give new lights into the manners of this ſingular race of Men: It will not I flatter myſelf be deemed impertinent to lay before you a Chronological Mention of the ſeveral evidences that will tend to prove the exiſtence of a People of a ſupernatural height inhabiting the Southern Tract. You will find, that the majority of Voyagers who have touched on that Coaſt have ſeen them, and made reports of their ſize that will very well keep in countenance the verbal account given by Mr. *Byron*, and the printed by Mr. *Clarke*; you will obſerve, that if the old Voyagers did exaggerate, it was thro' the novelty and amazement at ſo ſingular a ſight; but the latter forewarn'd by the preceding accounts, ſeem to have made their remarks with coolneſs, and confirmed them by the experiment of meaſurement.

A. D.

A. D. 1519. The firſt who ſaw theſe people was the great *Magellan*, one of them juſt made his appearance on the banks of the River *la Plata*, and then made his retreat, but during *Magellan's* long ſtay at *Port St. Julian*, he was viſited by numbers of this tall Race. The firſt approached him, ſinging, and flinging the Duſt over his head; and ſhewed all ſigns of a mild and peaceable diſpoſition; his viſage was painted, his Garment the ſkin of ſome Animal neatly ſewed, his Arms a ſtout and thick Bow; a quiver of long Arrows feathered at one end and armed at the other with Flint. The height of theſe People was about ſeven Feet *(French)* but they were not ſo tall as the Perſon who approached them firſt, who is repreſented to have been of ſo Gigantic a ſize, that *Magellan's* Men did not with their Heads reach as high as the waiſt of this *Patagonian*. They had with them Beaſts of Burden on which they placed their Wives; by *Magellan's* deſcription of them, they appear to have been the Animals now known by the Name of *Llama*.

Theſe Interviews ended with the captivating two of the People who were carry'd away in two different Ships, but as ſoon as they arrived in the hot Climate each of them died

'I dwell the longer on this account, as it appears extremely deſerving of credit; as the courage of *Magellan* made him incapable of giving an exaggerated account through the influence of fear: nor could there be any miſtake about the height; as he had not only a long intercourſe with them, but the actual poſſeſſion of two, for a very conſiderable ſpace of time.*

'It was *Magellan* who firſt gave them the name of *Patagons*, becauſe thy wore a ſort of ſlipper made of the ſkin of Animals, Tellement ſays *M. de Broſſe*† quils, paroiſſoit avoir des pattes de Bêtes.'

In 1525. *Garcia de Louiſa* ſaw within the ſtreights of *Magellan* ſavages of a very great ſtature, but he does not particularize their height.

After *Louiſa* the ſame Streights were paſſed in 1535 by *Simon de Alcazova*, and attempted in 1540 by *Alphonſo de Camargo* but without being viſited by our tall People.

* Vide *Ramuſios* Coll. Voyages. *Venice* 1550, alſo the Letter of *Maximilian Tranſilvanus* Sec. to *Charles* V. and in the 1ſt. Vol. p. 376 A. and B.

† This Account (as well as the others where I do not quote my Authority) are taken from that udicious Writer *M. de Broſſe*.

The

The ſame happened to our Countryman Sir *Francis Drake*, but becauſe it was not the fortune of that able and popular ſeaman to meet with theſe gigantic People, his Contemporaries conſidered the report as the invention of the *Spaniards*.

In 1579.—*Pedro Sarmiento* aſſerts, that thoſe he ſaw were three Ells high; this is a Writer I would never venture to quote ſingly, for he deſtroys his own credibility by ſaying, the Savage he made priſoner was an errant *Cyclops*; I only cite him to prove that he had fell in with a tall race tho' he mixes Fable with Truth.

In 1586.—Our Countryman Sir *Thomas Cavendiſh* in his Voyage had only opportunity of meaſuring one of their footſteps, which was eighteen inches long: he alſo found their Graves, and mentions their cuſtoms of burying near the ſhore. *

In 1591. *Anthony Knevet* who ſailed with Sir *Thomas Cavendiſh* in his ſecond Voyage relates, that he ſaw at *Port-Deſire* Men, fifteen or ſixteen ſpans high, and that he meaſured the bodies of two that had been recently buried, which were fourteen ſpans long. †

1599.—*Sebald de Veert* who ſailed with Admiral *de Cordes* was attacked in the ſtreight *Magellan* by ſavages whom he thought to be ten or eleven feet high: he adds, that they were of reddiſh color and had long hair. ‡

In the ſame Year *Oliver du Nort* a *Dutch* Admiral, had a rencontre with this gigantic race, whom he repreſents to be of a high ſtature and of a terrible aſpect.

1614.—*George Spilbergen*, another *Dutchman* in his paſſage thro' the ſame ſtreight ſaw a Man of a gigantic ſtature climbing a hill as if to take a view of the Ship. §

1615.—*Le Maire* and *Schouten* diſcovered ſome of the burying places of the *Patagonians* beneath heaps of great ſtones, and found in them Skeletons ten or eleven feet long. ‖

Mr. *Falkener* ſuppoſes, that formerly there exiſted a race of *Patagonians* ſuperior to theſe in ſize; for ſkeletons are often found of far greater dimenſions particularly about the River *Texeira*. Perhaps he may have

* *Purchas*, 1. 58.——† *Purchas* 1. 1232 —— Col. Voy. by the *Dutch East India* Company &c. *London* 1703 p. 319.——§ *Purchas* 1. 80.——‖ Ibid. 1. 91.

heard

heard of the old tradition of the natives mentioned by *Cieza*, * and repeated from him by *Garcilaſſo de la Vega*, † of certain Giants having come by ſea and landed near the cape of St. *Helena*, many ages before the arrival of the *Europeans*.

1618.—*Gracias de Nodal* a *Spaniſh* Commander in the courſe of his Voyage, was inform'd by *John Moore* one of his crew, who landed between *Cape* St. *Eſprit* and *Cape* St. *Arenas* on the S. ſide of the Streights; that he trafficked with a race of Men taller by the head than the *Europeans*. This and the next are the only inſtances I ever met with of the tall race, being found on this ſide of the Streights.

1642.—*Henry Brewer* a *Dutch* Admiral obſerved in the Streights *le Maire*, the footſteps of Men which meaſured eighteen inches, this is the laſt evidence in the 17*th*. Century of the exiſtence of theſe tall People: but let it be obſerv'd, that out of the fifteen firſt Voyagers who paſſed through the *Magellanic* Streights, not fewer than nine are undeniable Witneſſes of the fact we would eſtabliſh.

In the preſent Century I can produce but two evidences of the exiſtence of the tall *Patagonians*. The one in 1704 when the crew of a ſhip belonging to St. *Maloes* commanded by *Captain Harrington* ſaw ſeven of theſe Giants in *Gregory* Bay. Mention is alſo made of ſix more being ſeen by *Captain Carman* a Native of the ſame Town; but whether in the ſame Voyage my authority is ſilent. ‡

But as it was not the fortune of the four other Voyagers § who ſailed through the ſtreights in the 17*th*. Century to fall in with any of this tall race, it became a faſhion to treat as fabulous the account of the preceding nine, and to hold this lofty race as the mere creation of a warm Imagination.

In ſuch a temper was the public on the return of Mr. *Byron* from his Circumnavigation in the Year 1766. I have not the honor of having had perſonal conference with that Gentleman, therefore will not repeat the accounts I have been inform'd he has given to ſeveral of his friends, I rather chuſe to recapitulate that given by Mr. *Clarke* ‖ in the Philo-

* Seventeen Years Travels of *Peter de Cieza* 138.—† Tranſlated by *Ricaut* p. 263.—‡ *Frezier's* Voy. 84.
§ Sir *John Narborough* in 1670. *Bartholomew Sharp* in 1680. *De Gennes* in 1696, and *Beauchesne Gouin* in 1699.
‖ This able Officer commanded the *Diſcovery* in *Captain Cooks* laſt Voyage, and died off *Kamtſchatka* *Auguſt* 22. 1779.

ſophical

ſophical Tranſactions for 1767 p. 75. Mr. *Clarke* was Officer in Mr. *Byrons* ſhip, landed with him in the ſtreights of *Magellan*, and had for two hours an opportunity of ſtanding within a few yards of this race, and ſeeing them examined and meaſured by Mr. *Byron*. He repreſents them in general as ſtout and well proportion'd, aud aſſures us, that none of the Men were lower than eight feet, and that ſome even exceeded nine; and that the Women were from ſeven feet and an half to eight feet, he ſaw Mr. *Byron* meaſure one of the Men, and notwithſtanding the Commodore was near ſix feet high, he could when on tip toe, but juſt reach with his hand the top of the *Patagonian's* head; and Mr, *Clarke* is certain, that there were ſeveral taller than him on whom the experiment was made, for there was about five hundred Men Women and Children. They ſeem'd very happy at the landing of our people, and expreſſed their joy by a rude ſort of ſinging. They were of a copper color, and had long lank hair, and faces hideouſly painted; both ſexes were cover'd with ſkins, and ſome appeared on horſeback and others on foot.

M. de Premontel makes this an object of ridicule, as if the ſize of the horſes were unequal to the burden of the riders. Our Navigators tell us, that the horſes were fifteen or ſixteen feet high. It is well known, that a Mill-horſe has been known to carry nine hundred and ten pounds, a weight probably beyond that of any *Patagonian* they ſaw.

A few had on their legs a ſort of boot with a ſharp pointed ſtick at the heel inſtead of a ſpur. Their bridles were made of thong, the bit wood; the ſaddle as artleſs as poſſible, and without ſtirrups. The introduction of horſes into theſe parts by the *Europeans*, introduced likewiſe the only ſpecies of manufacture they appear to be acquainted with. All their ſkill ſeems to extend no further than theſe rude eſſays at a harneſs; and to equip themſelves for *Cavaliers*. In other reſpects they would be in the ſame ſtate as our firſt parents juſt turned out of paradiſe, cloathed in coats of ſkins; or at beſt in the ſame condition in which *Cæſar* found the ancient *Britons*; for their dreſs was ſimilar, their hair long, and their bodies like thoſe of our Anceſtors made terrific by wild painting. Theſe people by ſome means or other had acquired a few beads and bracelets; otherwiſe not a ſingle article of *European* fabrick

fabric appeared among them. Theſe they muſt have gotten by the intercourſe with the other *Indian* tribes: for had they had any intercourſe with the *Spaniards*, they never would have neglected procuring knives, the ſtirrups, and other conveniences which the people ſeen by Mr. *Wallis* had.

I ſhould have been glad to have cloſed in this place theſe relations of this ſtupendous race of Mankind; becauſe the two following accounts given by gentlemen of character and abilities ſeem to contradict great part of what had been before advanced, or at leſt ſerve to give ſcoffers room to ſay, that the preceding Navigators had ſeen theſe people thro' the medium of magnifying glaſſes inſtead of the ſober eye of obſervation: but before I make my remarks on what has been before related, I ſhall proceed with the other Navigators, and then attempt to reconcile the different accounts. In 1767 Captain *Wallis* of the *Dolphin* and Captain *Philip Carteret* of the *Swallow* Sloop ſaw and meaſured with a pole ſeveral of the *Patagonians* who happen'd to be in the ſtreights of *Magellan* during his paſſage,* he repreſents them as a fine and friendly people, cloathed in ſkins, and on their legs a ſort of boots, and many of them tied their hair, which was long and black with a ſort of woven ſtuff of the breadth of a garter made of ſome kind of wool. That their arms were ſlings formed of two round balls, faſten'd one to each end of a cord, which they fling with great force and dexterity, He adds they hold one ball in their hand and ſwing the other at the full length of the cord round their head by which it acquires a prodigious velocity: they will fling it to a great diſtance, and with ſuch exactneſs, as to ſtrike a very ſmall object; theſe people were alſo mounted on Horſes, their ſaddles bridles &c. were of their own making; ſome had iron and others metal bits to their bridles, and one had a *Spaniſh* broad ſword; but whether the laſt articles were taken by war or procured by commerce is uncertain, but the laſt is moſt probable. It ſeems evident that they had intercourſe with *Europeans*, and had even adopted ſome of their faſhions, for many had cut their dreſs into form of *Spaniſh Punchos*, or a ſquare piece of cloth with a hole cut for the head, the reſt hanging

* *Phil. Tranſ.* 1770 p. 21. *Hawkeſworth's* Voy. I. 374.

looſe

looſe as low as the knees. They alſo wore drawers, ſo theſe people had attained a few ſteps farther towards civilization than their gigantic neighbors, others again will appear to have made a far greater advance, for theſe ſtill devour'd their meat raw and drank nothing but water.

M. Bougainville in the ſame year ſaw another party of the natives of *Patagonia*: he meaſured ſeveral of them, and declares that none were lower than five feet five inches, *French*, or taller than five feet ten, i. e. five feet ten or ſix feet three *Engliſh* meaſure, he concludes his account with ſaying, that he afterwards met with a taller people in the S. ſea, but I do not recollect that he mentions the place.

I am ſorry to be obliged to remark in theſe voyages a very illibral propenſity to cavil at, and invalidate the account given by Mr. *Byron*: but at the ſame time exult in having an opportunity given me by that Gentleman of vindicating his and the national honor. *M. Bougainville* in order to prove he fell in with the identical people that Mr. *Byron* converſed with, aſſerts, that he ſaw numbers of them poſſeſſed of knives of an *Engliſh* manufactory, certainly given them by Mr. *Byron*, but he ſhould have conſidered that there are more ways than one of coming at a thing, that the commerce between *Sheffield* and *South America* through the port of *Cadiz* is moſt uncommonly large; and that his *Indians* might have got their knives from the *Spaniards* at the ſame time that they got their gilt nails and *Spaniſh* harneſs: but for farther ſatisfaction on this ſubject, I have liberty to ſay from Mr. *Byron's* authority, that he never gave a ſingle knife to the people he ſaw, that he had not one at that time about him, that excepting the preſents given with his own hands, and the tobacco brought by Lieutenant *Cummins*, not the leaſt trifle was beſtowed. I am furniſhed with one other proof, that theſe leſſer *Indians* whom Mr. *Wallis* ſaw were not the ſame with thoſe deſcribed by Mr. *Byron* as has been inſinuated: for the firſt had with him ſome officers who had been with him on the preceding Voyage, and who bear witneſs not only to the difference of ſize, but declare that theſe people had not a ſingle article among them given by Mr. *Byron* *. It is extremely probable that theſe were the *Indians* that Mr.

* See Mr. *Byrons* letter at the end.

Bougainville

Bougainville fell in with, for they were furniſhed with bits, a *Spaniſh* ſcymeter and braſs ſtirrups as before mentioned.

My laſt evidence of theſe gigantic *Americans* is that which I received from Mr. *Falkener;* he acquainted me that about the year 1742 he was ſent on a miſſon to the vaſt plains of *Pampas*, which if I recollect right lies to the S. W. of *Buenos Ayres* and extends near a thouſand miles towards the *Andes*. In theſe plains he firſt met with ſome tribes of theſe people and was taken under the protection of one of the *Caciques*. The remarks he made on their ſize were as follows; that the talleſt which he meaſured in the ſame manner that Mr. *Byron* did, was ſeven feet eight inches high, that the common height or middle ſize was ſix feet, that there were numbers that were even ſhorter, and that the talleſt Women did not exceed ſix feet. That they were ſcattered from the foot of the *Andes*, over that vaſt tract which extends to the *Atlantic Ocean* and are found as far as the *red river* at Bay *Anagada* lat. 40. 1; below that the land is too barren to be habitable and none are found except accidental migrants till you arrive at the river *Gallego* near the ſtreights of *Magellan*.

They are ſuppoſed to be a race derived from the *Chilian Indians*, the *Puelches* who inhabited the eaſtern ſide of the *Andes*, the ſame brave nation who defeated and deſtroyed the avaritious *Spaniard Baldivia* but after that were diſpoſſeſs'd of their ſeat.

They dwell in large tents covered with the hides of Mares and divided within into Apartments for the different ranks of the Family, by a ſort of blanketting. They are a moſt migratory people and often ſhift their quarters; when the Women ſtrike the tents aſſiſt in putting them on their horſes and like the females of all ſavage countries undergo all the laborious work.

They have two motives for ſhifting their quarters, one for the ſake of getting ſalt which they find incruſted in the ſhallow pools near the ſea ſide.

The other inducement is the ſuperſtition they have of burying their dead within a certain diſtance of the ocean, and I may certainly add a third, that of the neceſſity they muſt lie under of ſeeking freſh quarters on account of the chace which is their principal ſubſiſtance.

Thoſe

Thoſe who deny the exiſtence of theſe great People never conſider the migratory nature of the Inhabitants of this prodigious tract, and never reflect that the tribes who may have been ſeen this month on the coaſt, may the next be ſome hundreds of miles inland and their place occupied by a tribe or nation totally different. Theſe Gentlemen ſeem to lay down as a certain poſition, that *Patagonia* is peopled by only a ſingle nation, and from that falſe principle they draw their arguments, ſneer inſult and even groſsly abuſe all that differ in opinion. Among the moſt illiberal of theſe writers is *M. de Premontel*, who with the rapid ingenuity of his country mounts on his head ſtrong courſer PREJUDICE, ſets off full ſpeed, rides over all the honeſt fellows that would inform him of his road, and ſpurns even truth herſelf tho' ſhe offers to be his guide: but truth is unadorned and hated by this fantaſtic writer, would ſpoil him of all the flowers of fiction, and tropes of abuſe againſt a rival country, would teach him facts that would ruin his argument and reduce his eloquent memoire to a ſingle narrative of unconteſted veracity.

Their food is (almoſt entirely) animal: the fleſh of Horſes, Oxen, Guanacoes and Oſtriches, all of which they eat roaſted or boiled. Their drink is water except in the ſeaſon when certain ſpecies of Fruit are ripe, for of thoſe they make a ſort of fermenting Liquor called *Chucha* common to many parts of South America. One kind is made of a podded fruit called *Algarrova* which ſmells like a bug, and when bruiſed in Water becomes an inebriating Liquor. The ſame fruit is alſo eaten as bread. The other *Chucha* is made of the *Molie* a ſmall fruit, hot and ſweet in the Mouth, both theſe cauſe a deep drunkenneſs, eſpecially the laſt which excites a phrenetic inebriation and a wildneſs of Eyes, which laſts, two or three Days.

The Cloathing of theſe People is either a mantle of Skins or of a Woolen* Cloth manufactur'd by themſelves; ſome is ſo ſtrong and compact as even to hold Water, the color is various; for ſome are ſtriped and dyed with the richeſt red made of Cochineel and certain Roots. They wear a ſhort apron before, which is tucked between the Legs and preſerves a modeſt appearance. They never wear feather'd ornaments, ex-

* The *Puelches* have no Sheep but what they purchaſe from the *Voluches* who Inhabit the *Andes*, cultivate Sheep and raiſe Corn, the Wool is equally fine with that of *old Spain*.

cept

cept in their Dances. Their Hair is long and tied up with a fillet. They have naturally Beards,* but they generally pluck up the Hairs; not but ſome leave Muſtaches, as was obſerv'd by Mr. *Carteret* and *M. Bougainville.*

When they go to War they wear a fourfold Coat of the Skin of the *Tapier*, a Cap of Bull's hide doubled, and a broad Target of the ſame. Their offenſive Weapons are Bows and Arrows, the laſt headed with bone, launces headed with Iron and broad ſwords, both which they procure from the *Spaniards*; but their native Weapons are Slings, of theſe they have two kinds, one for War which conſiſts of a thong, headed with Stone, at only one end; and during their Campaigns they carry numbers of theſe wraped about their bodies.

The Slings which they uſe in the chace of Horſes, Cattle or Oſtriches have a Stone fixed to each end; and ſometimes another thong with a third Stone is faſten'd to the middle of the other: theſe with amazing dexterity, they fling round the objects of the chace be they Beaſts or Oſtriches which entangle them ſo that they cannot ſtir. The Indians leave them I may ſay thus tied neck and heels, and go on in purſuit of freſh Game; and having finiſh'd their ſport return to pick up the Animals they left ſecur'd in the ſlings.

Their Wars are chiefly with the other *Indians*, for *Patagonia* is inhabited by variety of People, not a ſingle nation. They have a great deal of intercourſe with the *Spaniards* and often come down to *Buenos Ayres* to trade for Iron, Bugles &c.

This commerce with the *Europeans* has corrupted them greatly, taught them the vice of dram-drinking and been a dreadful obſtacle to their moral improvement. Mr. *Falkener* inform'd me, that he once prevaled on about five hundred to form a reduction, but that they grew unruly and ungovernable as ſoon as the *Spaniſh* Traders got among them.

Their War and their chace are carried on Horſeback, for they are moſt expert riders and have multitudes of Horſes with which the Country is perfectly over-run for they go in herds of thouſands. The price of a Horſe at preſent is two Dollars or 9*s*. and 2*d*. provided it has been

* *M. Premontel* roundly aſſerts that they have no beards.

broken

broken About the Year 1554* near the time of the Conqueſt of *Peru*, the common price of one was from four to ſix thouſand to ten thouſand *Peſos*† or from 1350*l.* to 2250*l. Engliſh.*

The venereal diſtemper is common among them. They do not ſpeak of it as an exotic diſorder, ſo probably it is aboriginal.

In reſpect to religion they allow two principles a good and a bad.‡ The good they call the *Creator of all things*; but conſider him as one that after that, never ſollicits himſelf about them. He is ſtyled by ſome *Soucha* or chief in the Land of *ſtrong drink*, by others *Gauyara-cunnee* or *Lord of the dead.* The *evil principle* is called *Hueccovoe* or the *wanderer without.* Sometimes theſe (for there are ſeveral) are ſuppoſed to preſide over particular Perſons, protect their own People or injure others. Theſe are likewiſe call'd *Valichu* or dwellers *in the air.*

They have Prieſts and Prieſteſſes, whoſe office is to mediate with theſe Beings in caſe of ſickneſs or any diſtreſs; by the intervention of the Prieſt they are conſulted about future events; at thoſe ſeaſons the Prieſt ſhuts himſelf up and falls into a phrenetic extacy‖ and appears epileptic. If he gives a wrong anſwer he lays the fault on the evil principle who he ſays had deceived him by not coming in perſon, but only ſent one of his ſlaves. At theſe times the great People aſſemble about the cabin, from whence the Oracle is to be delivered, waiting its report with great anxiety.

If a *Cazique* dies or any public calamity happens; for example in particular when the ſmall pox had made great ravages among the Tribes, the Prieſts are ſure to ſuffer, for the misfortune is preſumed to have happened thro' their neglect in not deprecating the evil, in theſe caſes they have no other method of ſaving themſelves, but by laying the blame on others of their Brethren.

Prieſts are choſen from among the young People the moſt effeminate they can find, but thoſe that are epileptic have always the preference, and theſe dreſs in a female habit.

* *Garcilaſſa de la Vega*, 377 Engl. tranſl.—† *Peſos* in the original; perhaps *Peſos duros* which makes the above Sum.—‡ *M. de Premontal* is clear they have no ſort of Religion.—§ The pretenders to ſecond ſight in the *Hebrides* and the *Awenyddion* or the *Inſpired* among the *Welch* are ſeized with the ſame extaſie.

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The *Puelches* have a notion of a future ſtate, and imagine that after death they are to be tranſported to a Country, where the fruits of inebriation are eternal, there to live in immortal drunkenneſs, and the perpetual chace of the Oſtrich.

When a Perſon of eminence dies, the moſt reſpectable Women in the place goes into the Tent, clears the Body of all the inteſtines, and ſcrapes off as much of the fleſh from the bones as poſſible, and then burns very careſully both that and the entrails; when that is done, the bones are buried till the reſt of the fleſh is quite decay'd: they are taken up within a year; and if any of the bones drop out of their places they are refixed and tied together, and the whole form'd into a perfect ſkeleton. Thus complete, it is packed up in a hide, put on the back of a favorite Horſe of the deceaſed, and then tranſlated to the Tomb of his Anceſtor, perhaps 300 miles diſtant and always within a ſmall ſpace from the Sea.

The ſkeleton is then taken out and deck'd in its beſt Robes, and adorn'd with plumes and beads, is placed ſiting in a deep ſquare pit parallel with thoſe buried before, with Sword Launce and other Weapons placed by them, and the ſkins of their Horſes ſtuff'd and ſupported by ſtakes alſo accompany them. The top of the pit is that cover'd with Turf placed on tranſverſe Beams.

A Matron is appointed to attend theſe Sepulchers, whoſe office it is to keep the Skeletons clean and to new Cloath them Annually.* I forgot to add that on depoſeting a Skeleton in its Tomb the *Puelches* make a libation of *Chucha*, and like what I have heard of an honeſt *Spaniard* drank *viva el morte* long live the dead.

They allow Polygamy, and marry promiſcuouſly among other *Americans*, they are allowed as many as three Wives apiece, but if any take more htan that number he is eſteemed a libertine and held in very little eſteem.

Widows black their Faces for a Year after their Huſbands deceaſe.

In reſpect to Government the *Caziques* are hereditary, it is their buſineſs to protect the property of tehir People, and they have power of life

* This account agrees with thoſe given by *Laſitau* in moſt particulars, vide *Mœurs des Sauvages* II. 438.

and

and death the office is far from being elegible; many reject it, becauſe they are oblig'd to pay all their People for their ſervices who may at pleaſure change their *Caziques*, ſo that ſeveral refuſe to accept new vaſſals, who may offer themſelves; for it is not allow'd any *Indian* to live out of the protection of ſome *Cazique*: in ſuch a caſe he would certainly be looked on as an outlaw.

Eloquence is in high eſteem with them. If a *Cazique* wants that talent he keeps an orator juſt as leaders in oppoſition have been known to do among us.

This cloſes the hiſtory Mr. *Falkener* favored me with, but I muſt not quit that Gentleman without informing you that he return'd to *Europe* with a ſuit of *Patagonian* Cloth, a Cup of Horn and a little Pot made of *Chilian* copper, the whole fruits the *Spaniards* left him after the labors of a thirty eight years miſſion.

From the preceding account it appears that the country which goes under the name of *Patagonia* extending from the River *la Plata* Lat. 35. to the ſtreights of *Magellan* Lat. 53 * and weſtward as far as the *Andes*, is inhabited by Men who may be divided into three different Claſſes, and to them may be added a fourth a combination or mixture of others.

The firſt is a race of Men of common ſize, who have been ſeen by numbers and whoſe exiſtence is indiſputable. Theſe often are ſeen on the northern ſide of the ſtreights of *Magellan* and oftner on the *Terra del Fuego* ſide even as low as oppoſite to *Cape Horn*. Theſe are frequently an exiled race, unhappy fugitives drove by their enemies, to take ſhelter from their fury, in thoſe diſtant parts; for ſuch is the information Mr. *Falkener* received from ſome *Indians* he met with in the ſouthern parts of *Patagonia*, and this will account for the ſettled melancholy of the People obſerved by the Navigators in *Terra del Fuego*.

The ſecond Claſs conſiſts of thoſe who (in general) exceed the common height of *Europeans* by a few inches or perhaps the head; ſuch were thoſe who were ſeen by *John Moore* who ſail'd with *Gracias de Nodal* in 1618; byMr. *Carteret* in 1767, and by *M. Bougainville* in the ſame year.

* *M. de Prenoutel* will compare *Patagonia* to the ſpace between the *Riviere des Sardines* and the ſtreights of *Magellan*.

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The third Claſs is compoſ'd of thoſe whoſe height is ſo extraordinary as to occaſion ſo great a diſbelief, of the accounts of Voyagers; and yet they are indiſputable an exiſtent People, they have been ſeen by *Magellan* and ſix other in the 16*th*. Century and by two if not three in the preſent.

The fourth Claſs is a mixed race, who careleſs about preſerving their generous and exalted breed pure and undegenerate, have degraded themſelves by intermixing with the puny tribes of the country, and from that intercourſe have produced a mongrel breed of every ſize, except that of the original ſtandard, ſome few, as if by accident, ſeem to aſpire to the height of their anceſtors, but are checked in their growth, and ſtop at the ſtature of ſeven feet eight inches, ſcarce the middle ſize of the genuine breed. But another reaſon maybe aſſigned for the degeneracy and inequality of ſize in this Claſs: they live within the neighborhood of *Europeans*, they have intercourſe with them, and from them they have acquired the vice of dram drinking and all its horrible conſequences; this alone is ſufficient to make a nation of giants dwindle into pygmies.

A third reaſon may ſtill be aſſigned *viz.* The introduction of manufacturies among them. Thoſe people who depended on the ſpoils of the chaſe for their habiliments were certain of preſerving their full vigor, their ſtrength of conſtitution and fullneſs of habit, while thoſe who are confin'd to the loom grow enervate and loſe much of the force of their bodily faculties. They alſo live in tents lin'd with woollen manufacture, which doubtleſsly are much more delicate, luxurious and warm than the dwellings of the third undegenerate Claſs. We are unacquainted with the form of their tents, but we know that they ſtill cloath themſelves with the ſkins of beaſts, and that among thoſe, Mr. *Clarke* ſaw there was not the leſt appearance of manufactury excepting what related to their horſe-furniture. Theſe ſeem to have been the genuine remains of the free race, the conquerors of *Pedro de Baldivia*, the *Puelches* whoſe original ſtation was among the *Andes* of *Chiloe* in about *Latitude* 43 and almoſt due eaſt of the iſle of *Chiloe*. Theſe were the deſcendents of the *Indians* who retreated to the ſouth far out of the common track of *Europeans* and who retain their primaval grandeur of ſize; the others who

who fled northeaſt forgetful of their orignal magnificent ſtature, loſt in general that noble diſtinction by unſuitable alliances and the uſe of ſpirits, while the firſt probably only marry among themſelves and certainly have all ſtrong liquor in abhorrence; ſome of this tall race ſeem ſtill to inhabit the ſtations of their Anceſtors or ſome not very remote from them; for *M. Frezier* was aſſur'd by *Don Pedro Molina* Govenor of *Chiloe* that he once was viſited by ſome of theſe People, who were four *varas* or about nine or ten feet high; they came in company with ſome *Chiloe Indians* * with whom they were friends and who probably found them in ſome of their excurſions.

M. de Premontal inſults *M. Frezier* with much acrimony on account of this relation; and charges him with changing the ſeat of thoſe People from the eaſtern coaſt to the weſtern or the tract between *Chiloe* and the *Magellanic* ſtreights, but the truth is, that *Frezier* ſays no ſuch thing, but mentions them as a nation living up the country inland not near the ſhores; *M. Premontal* alſo ſneers at the evidence of the crews of the *Maloe* ſhips; but they by no means place theſe tall People on the weſtern coaſt of *S. America*, but at *Gregory Bay* a place very little diſtant from the eaſtern entrance of the *Streights* and near which theſe giants have been more frequently ſeen than any where elſe.

My remarks on *M. de Premontal* are but a tribute to the many civilities I have received from doctor *Matie* who has been moſt unprovokedly unjuſtly and illiberally abuſed by this vague and pragmatical writer.

Thus I conclude all that I collect relating to theſe ſingular People. Let me beg you to receive the account with your uſual Candor and think me with the moſt regard

Dear Sir

Your faithful and affect. humble Servant

THOMAS PENNANT.

Downing November 28th. 1771.

* *Frezier's* Voyage p. 86.

Copy

Copy of a Paper tranſmitted from Admiral *Byron* to me; through the hands of the Right Reverend *John Egerton* late Biſhop of *Durham*, after he had peruſed the Manuſcript of the foregoing account.

" The People I ſaw upon the coaſt of *Patagonia* were not the ſame " that was ſeen the ſecond Voyage. One or two of the Officers that " ſail'd with me and afterwards with Captain *Wallace* declar'd to me " that they had not a ſingle thing I had diſtributed amongſt thoſe I " ſaw. *M. Bougainville* remarks that his officers landed amongſt the " *Indians* I had ſeen, as they had many *Engliſh* knives amongſt them " which were, as he pretends, undoubtedly given by me: now it hap- " pen'd that I never gave a ſingle knife to any of thoſe *Indians*, nor did " I even carry one a ſhore with me.

" I had often heard from the *Spaniards* that there were two or three " different nations of very tall People, the largeſt of which inhabit thoſe " immenſe plains at the back of the *Andes*. The others ſome where near " the river *Galiegos*. I take it to be the former that I ſaw, and for this rea- " ſon, returning from *Port Famine* where I had been to wood and water " I ſaw thoſe Peoples fires a long way to the weſtward of where I had " left them and a great way inland, ſo as the winter was approaching " they were certainly returning to a better climate. I remarked that " they had not one ſingle thing amongſt them that ſhewed they ever " had any commerce with *Europeans*. They were certainly of a moſt " amazing ſize: ſo much were their horſes diſproportion'd that all the " People that were with me in the boats when very near the ſhore " ſwore that they were all mounted upon deer; and to this inſtant I be- " lieve there is not a man that landed with me, tho' they were at ſome " diſtance from them, but would ſwear they took them to be nine feet " high. I do ſuppoſe many of them were between ſeven and eight " and ſtrong in proportion.

" Mr. *Byron* is much obliged to Mr. *Pennant* for the peruſal of his " Manuſcript and thinks his remarks very judicious.

FINIS.

MVSEVM BRITANNICVM